The Government of Orissa have launched infant mortality reduction mission w.e.f. 15.8.2001 to accelerate the decline of infant mortality from 97/1000 live births to 60/1000 live births by 2005. Under the mission, steps have been initiated by Government of Orissa to improve antenatal care services including protection of pregnant women against malaria, improve institutional and safe deliveries, new born care, ensure complete immunization, ensure early detection of cases of pneumonia, diarrhoea, malnutrition, measles and providing referral and basic curative services by strengthening the health services.

(b) Improving literacy rate, as such, is not a component of the programme. However, awareness and education of women and families on health issues is undertaken through the Information, Education & Communication (IEC) component of the RCH Programme.

(c) The IMR of Orissa has shown a decline from 97/1000 live birth in 2001 to 87/1000 live birth in 2002.

Vacant posts of SCs/STs

2040. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of various posts belonging to SCs/STs and backward classes lying vacant in her Ministry/Departments and its subordinate offices as on the 30th June, 2003, category-wise alongwith the date since these are lying vacant and the reasons therefor; and

(b) by when these posts are likely to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.